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EXPECTATIONS FULL

FOREWORD

Many Muslims dream of making it to the front lines of jihad. Each one of them have a certain image in their mind of how being in the lands of jihad would be like. This image may vary from one Muslim to another, but this image or that wouldn't be any closer to the image of someone who had actually made that journey. The writer of this document did exactly that, there are things this document that wouldn't have been expressed in a particular way if its writer wasn't himself coming from the West. In this document, the writer gives his fellow Muslims a sense of what the live of a mujahid would be during the twenty first century. In this time, the intensified intellectual war waged on our *ummah* has reached a point where it has left the majority unappreciative of their brethren who sat off to defend the *ummah*'s principles and honor.

For those Muslims coming from the West, this is a must read document as it includes an invaluable information which will enable them to appropriately understand the importance of their role in the scale of this battle and provide them with a visibility to aptly choose their next step.

In the Arabian Peninsula, the mujahideen's circumstances now are different to some extent from that described in this document. This is due to the mujahideen's recent opening of Abyan, at this time; the mujahideen are managing the affairs of the Muslims after having implemented Allah's *Shari'ah* in most of that region and are in a state of expansion – All praise due to Allah.

Samir khan – the writer of this document was martyred along with Shaykh Anwar Al Awlaki after being targeted by An American drones in 30th Sept. 2011. We ask Allah to accept them and make their work a benefit for the Muslims.

This is the account of our brother Samir Khan, may Allah have mercy on him.

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EXPECTATIONS FULL

Introduction:

Living amongst the heroes of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula has made me come to many realizations about how guerrilla warfare is conducted by the mujahidun. Before embarking upon the journey to the ummah's mujahidin, I was always under the impression that fighting either directly or indirectly was what I would be doing most of the time. The reality is not quite like that. I have realized that living with the mujahidin will actually retransform one's life style and habits to something that is closer to Allah's pleasure. In this series of notes I have jotted down, I will be sharing those experiences.

Samir Z. Khan

Cleanliness

Remaining clean throughout your jihādī career should never be overlooked due to the problems that may arise. In some cases, you will be staying with a few brothers in a tight room or house. In order to avoid unnecessary problems, encourage yourself and your brothers to clean the room(s) on a regular basis. As for yourself, a daily shower is ideal but not possible in many cases. Water supply can sometimes be an issue in the place you will temporarily stay in. Thus it is important to remember others before yourself in such situations. In other words, if you don't need to use a large amount of water, then don't use it.

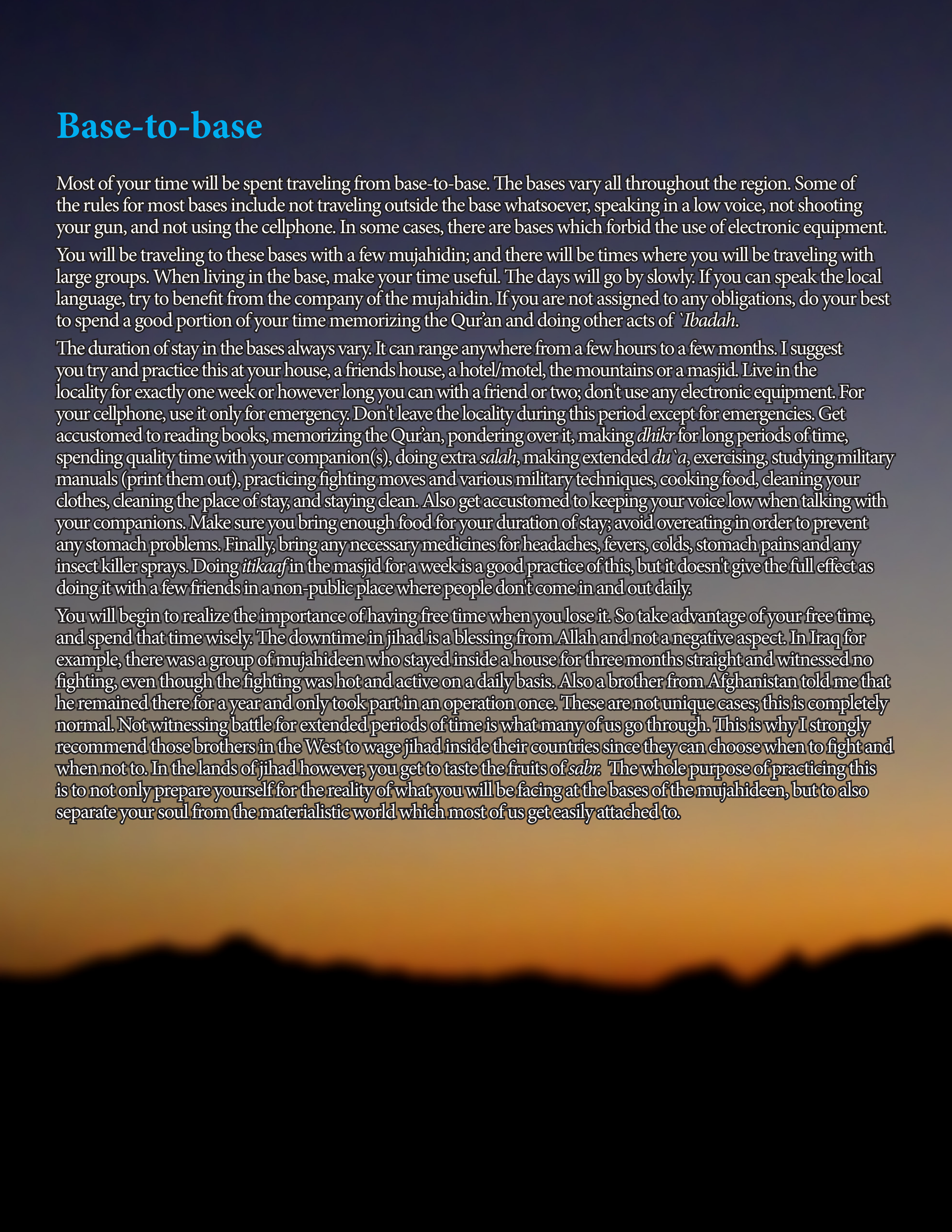
Base-to-base

Most of your time will be spent traveling from base-to-base. The bases vary all throughout the region. Some of the rules for most bases include not traveling outside the base whatsoever, speaking in a low voice, not shooting your gun, and not using the cellphone. In some cases, there are bases which forbid the use of electronic equipment.

You will be traveling to these bases with a few mujahidin; and there will be times where you will be traveling with large groups. When living in the base, make your time useful. The days will go by slowly. If you can speak the local language, try to benefit from the company of the mujahidin. If you are not assigned to any obligations, do your best to spend a good portion of your time memorizing the Qur'an and doing other acts of *`Ibadah*.

The duration of stay in the bases always vary. It can range anywhere from a few hours to a few months. I suggest you try and practice this at your house, a friends house, a hotel/motel, the mountains or a masjid. Live in the locality for exactly one week or however long you can with a friend or two; don't use any electronic equipment. For your cellphone, use it only for emergency. Don't leave the locality during this period except for emergencies. Get accustomed to reading books, memorizing the Qur'an, pondering over it, making *dhikr* for long periods of time, spending quality time with your companion(s), doing extra *salah*, making extended *du`a*, exercising, studying military manuals (print them out), practicing fighting moves and various military techniques, cooking food, cleaning your clothes, cleaning the place of stay, and staying clean. Also get accustomed to keeping your voice low when talking with your companions. Make sure you bring enough food for your duration of stay; avoid overeating in order to prevent any stomach problems. Finally, bring any necessary medicines for headaches, fevers, colds, stomach pains and any insect killer sprays. Doing *itikaaf* in the masjid for a week is a good practice of this, but it doesn't give the full effect as doing it with a few friends in a non-public place where people don't come in and out daily.

You will begin to realize the importance of having free time when you lose it. So take advantage of your free time, and spend that time wisely. The downtime in jihad is a blessing from Allah and not a negative aspect. In Iraq for example, there was a group of mujahideen who stayed inside a house for three months straight and witnessed no fighting, even though the fighting was hot and active on a daily basis. Also a brother from Afghanistan told me that he remained there for a year and only took part in an operation once. These are not unique cases; this is completely normal. Not witnessing battle for extended periods of time is what many of us go through. This is why I strongly recommend those brothers in the West to wage jihad inside their countries since they can choose when to fight and when not to. In the lands of jihad however, you get to taste the fruits of *sabr*. The whole purpose of practicing this is to not only prepare yourself for the reality of what you will be facing at the bases of the mujahideen, but to also separate your soul from the materialistic world which most of us get easily attached to.



Living outdoors

Living outdoors will be the most difficult of bases to stay in. In some bases, it won't be too bad since the mujahideen will erect tents and there might be some basic comforts. It is possible though that there will be incidents were none of this will be available and you will have to sleep on sand, rocks or grass. They may or may not have blankets and sleeping bags available.

As for the weather, you should do some research into the country before arriving as to what it's like during the day and night, especially in deserts, mountainous regions and forests. You will want to wear your boots/sneakers/sandals most of the time in the outdoors, but you should get used to taking it off everyday or at least every 3 days to avoid running into foot problems. A brother in Afghanistan sticked to taking his boots off every 3 days but didn't do a good job of washing his feet thoroughly; after some time, he developed a strange foot disease where his small toe was pushed underneath his foot. After that, he could no longer walk. Take good care of your feet and wash them properly.

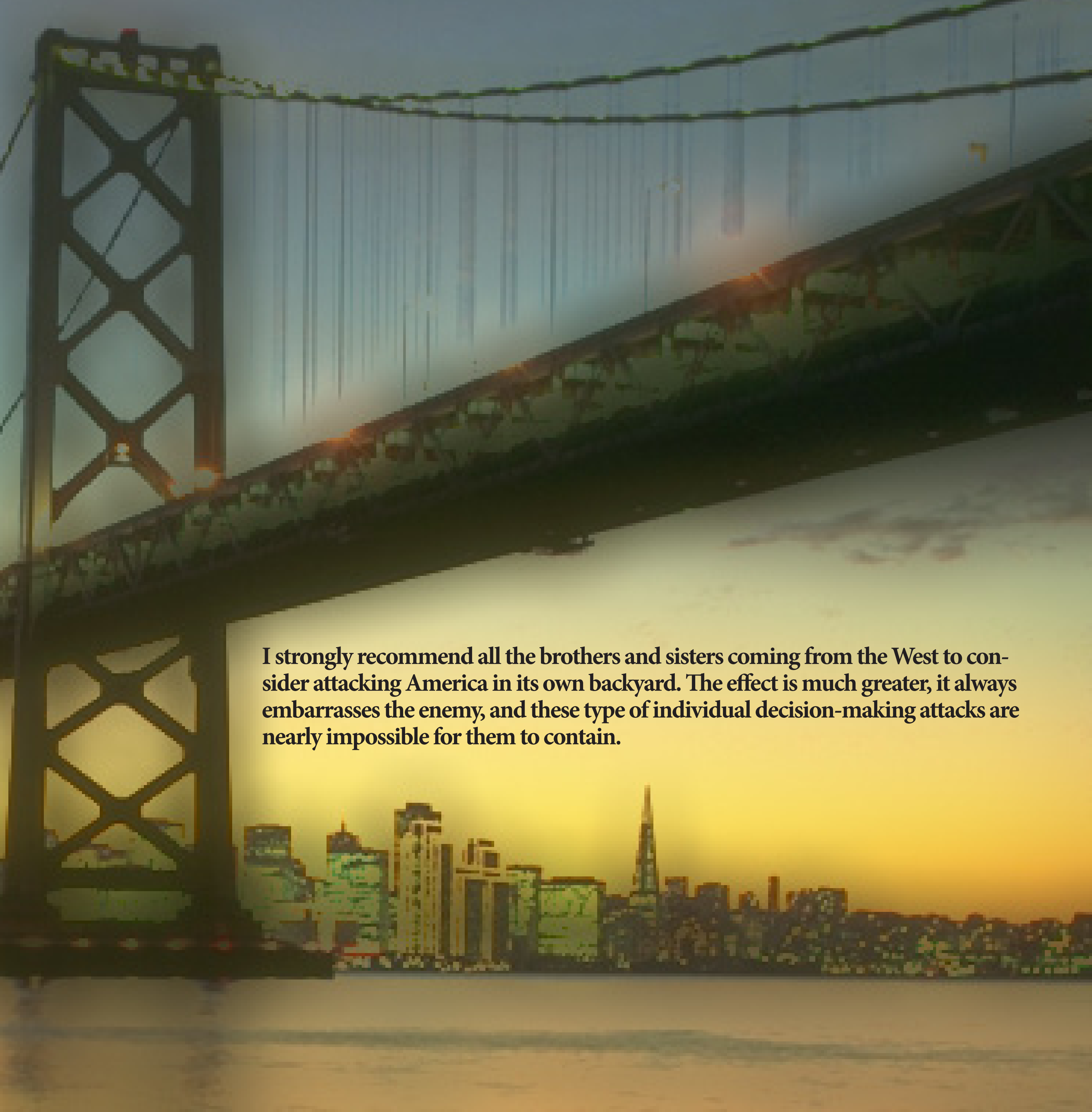
"It's a secret"

One of the pillars of modern day jihad is secrecy. If its members don't practice this amongst themselves, it is possible for the movement to fall apart. What is meant here by secrecy is hiding from the people your personal information except for those details which the Amir has allowed. This is because if a mujahid is captured by the *kuffar* or *murtadin* and is interrogated through torture, he might give away your real name and where you come from. So for example, if I am British but of Indian descent, I tell the brothers I'm from so-and-so land (a place where you obviously not from). Or if you tell them "*amniyat*" which means it's a secret trust, they will understand that it's a secret and will avoid asking again. However, this doesn't mean you turn yourself into a complete robot and not respond to the brothers when they talk to you. All you need to do is be careful when talking or responding to a question.

In addition, there are certain questions you should avoid asking. Some of these questions include, "Where are you from", "How long have you been in the jihad", "Where does so-and-so stay", "When is so-and-so going out for the operation" and "When are we going to leave this base". This is because we don't want any possible spies in our ranks to take advantage of this information. Also, the more you ask these kind of questions, the more the mujahidin and its leadership will think of you as a spy and place you on their blacklist, keeping a close watch of you.

Why not the West?

If you're coming from the West, especially America, you might be asked by the leaders of the mujahidin or those who know where you're from why you didn't partake in jihad inside your country. If you tell them, "to help the mujahidin," they might tell you that attacking the enemy in their backyard is one of the best ways to help the jihad. They certainly will not force you to go back home, but they will leave that option open for you just in case you change your mind and decide to attack the enemy back home.



I strongly recommend all the brothers and sisters coming from the West to consider attacking America in its own backyard. The effect is much greater, it always embarrasses the enemy, and these type of individual decision-making attacks are nearly impossible for them to contain.

Aerial bombardment

Facing aerial bombardment from the enemy is nothing new. The mujahidin in Afghanistan face its threat on a daily basis as well as in other countries. When facing it for the first time, it certainly will be a life changing experience. It is normal for any human being to be shaken up by missiles which are released from jets, helicopters, spy planes, ships and whatnot. One of the methods of the enemy is that they will employ a spy plane to hover over your location for a period of time. You will be able to hear it from its loud and annoying bee-like sound. Then after the enemy gathers enough intelligence on the target from both aerial spying and ground spies, they will attack the area with different types of missiles. After the assault, they use their spy plane to watch for any movement and they may or may not kill the remaining mujahidin. This is the strategy of our enemy when bombing us.

The explosions come in various sizes. I have seen images in Afghanistan where the explosions leave craters that are between 5 to 10 meters deep and 10 to 20 meters wide. In Yemen, I faced cluster bombs. Those missiles left craters that were about half a meter deep, and maybe four to five feet wide. After the missile campaign is over and you are told to leave the area, it is highly possible that the cluster bomb will have left grenades all over the area; so be careful of where you step. What will shock you is the sound of the explosion since it's intended to surprise the one on the receiving end with a deafening blast. You will obviously want to cover your ears as tight as possible when being bombed since you want to avoid hearing problems.

During the blast, you will want to make as much *dhikr* and *du`a* as possible. Repeat the *kalimah* constantly. If you feel terrified, then think about paradise; close your eyes and imagine yourself inside paradise, entering its magnificent gates. Imagine glancing at your beautiful palace where rivers of honey, milk and wine flow underneath. Think of your *hoor* that are awaiting you as well as meeting the prophets, *siddiqin*, *shuhada'* and *salihin*. Imagine smiling and laughing with our beloved Prophet Muhammad, *sallallahu 'alayhi wassallam*. Imagine seeing Allah and witnessing His pleasure with you. Think of all the good things in Paradise. Constantly ask Allah to accept you as a *shahid*. I swear by Allah, when one is under the aerial bombardment of the enemy, there is no time in the world where one feels closer to their *Rabb* than this. This is because one is smiling in the face of death, waiting to be relieved of this world and be transferred to the blessed stations of the Afterlife.

As for protecting yourself from the enemy bombardment and knowing what to do during the bombardment, this will all be taught to you when you join the ranks of the mujahidin.

Dealing with injury

Getting injured in jihad is probable and should be expected, whether large or small. There are brothers though who have fought in jihad for many years and haven't been injured. Sometimes an injury will be totally unrelated to the enemy; it can come from falling down and getting hurt, getting bit by an animal, or stepping on sharp objects. If you get injured in jihad, you must remain patient. It is possible that through this pain, Allah will take your soul and give you *shahada*. And if He doesn't take your soul, then it is possible that Allah will forgive you for all your sins and grant you tremendous rewards. Remember that if you get injured when not fighting, you are still considered to be on jihad. In fact, you are on jihad 24/7 until you die or leave jihad. So the injury will be a source of forgiveness and reward from Allah if you remain patient, *In Sha'* Allah.

Take good care of your wounds and never neglect any open cuts since it can get infected and make the injury worse. *Alhamdullilah*, the mujahidin have many brothers that are skilled in medicine and healing wounds. So don't worry and put your trust in Allah. I recommend carrying a few bandages in your pocket as well as anything else you feel is necessary and light.

Khidmah

The word *khidmah* means service. When you are with the mujahideen at their bases, you will notice everyone striving to do something to serve the brothers whether large or miniscule. You will not see a bunch of lazy people sitting around, doing absolutely nothing, and wasting their time. Rather, you will see them making use of their time. For example, if you see the drinking bottles of the mujahideen empty, don't ask anyone if they want to have it re-filled; just get up and do it for them, seeking the reward from Allah. Don't seek their praises, but seek the happiness of Allah.

You will find the mujahideen to be a people of sacrifice; so when a brother is thirsty, instead of drinking a glass of water first, he will pass it around to others who are thirsty. Once everyone drinks to their fill, he will drink last. This is a normal practice amongst the mujahideen. *Masha'allah*, there is one brother whom we nickname '*chai* man' since he always offers the brothers *chai*, even if he is fasting! His *chai* is always tasty and carefully made. The brothers won't even ask for *chai* and the brother would all of a sudden appear with the *chai* ready and drinking glasses cleaned. You would never see him dragging his feet when offering the *chai*; he is always pleased to serve his mujahideen bretheren.

Don't think for a moment that just because you are a foreigner or a guest of the mujahideen that you shouldn't help the brothers. You should always offer yourself to help them whether it be in food, drink, digging, cleaning, fixing and so on.

Training camps

The training camps in *al-qa'idah* are nothing next to easy, even for the experienced. It requires a full tank of *sabr* as well as stamina. In *al-qa'idah*, we don't care about the size of your muscles, how fast you run, how strong your legs are and so on; although these things will be strengthened, but we put a special focus on 'lasting long' and outdoing the enemy in patience. So it's not about who runs the track the fastest, but who can last a jog for miles with all equipment. It's not about who can memorize all the military teachings the quickest, but who can understand it correctly and perhaps offer a better solution if possible.

The jihad today requires intelligence, patience, stamina, and a great deal of *iman* and *yaqeen* in Allah. It is not about just rushing to the enemy bases and attempting to take them over, but it is about what to do in the long run and how to build upon that. In our training, we attempt to provide the most correct and useful training techniques and strategies and to build our fighters into men of iron and steel.

The physical training consists of many push-ups, sit-ups, and various exercises on a daily basis. There is also a lot of different and unique obstacles set up for the mujahideen to go through in order to give them the most realistic taste of what it's like to take part in an operation. There is also a focus on building natural strength in your body. For example, in the *al-farooq* training camp inside Afghanistan, the trainer ordered all the mujahideen to take off their shoes and socks and to walk barefooted on the mountains, stepping over everything including sticks, thorns, mud, sharp rocks etc. Many mujahideen came back with bloodied feet. This was all done so that they could build natural strength in their feet, making it rough and tough, because there could arise a situation where the mujahid escapes prison and has no shoes to walk with or the mujahideen might lose their shoes somehow and have to walk barefoot on the mountains.

The trainer of the camp also goes over guerilla warfare, its history, its importance, its strategy, and so on, taking it from an assortment of books from both jihadi authors as well as non-jihadi works. In short, prepare for the worse, and hope in the best.

Bringing your family

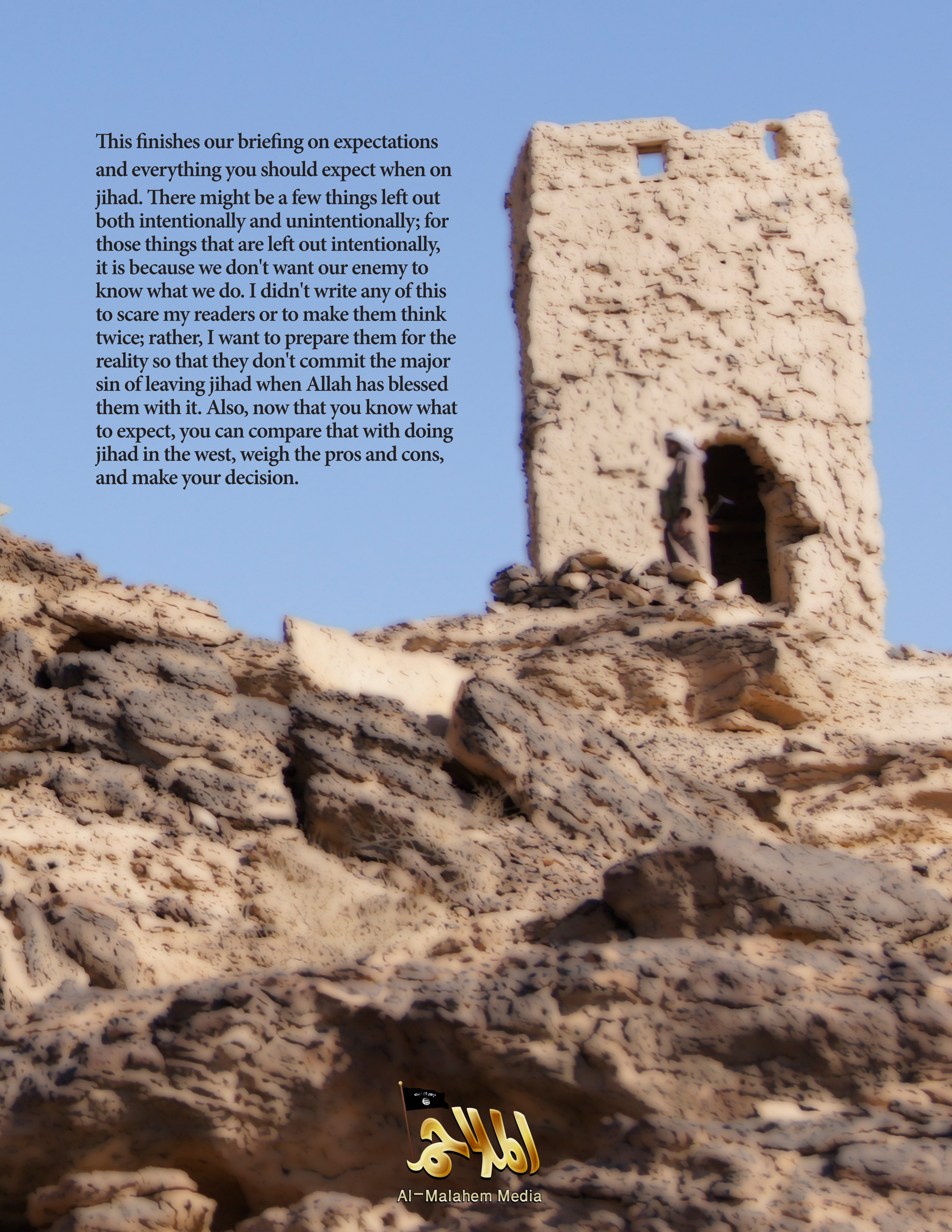
If you have a family that you want to bring to jihad, it may or may not be possible depending on the logistics of the mujahideen. In Yemen for example, it's extremely difficult to bring your wife and kids to live amongst the mujahideen. In other lands, this may not be a problem. So if you know that the land you are going to is tight on this, then what you can do is bring your family to the land, but keep them in a city where they will be safe and protected by friends. You don't want to risk them being captured by the murtadeen and witnessing them getting raped and tortured in order to extract information about you.

Domestic politics

You should be aware of the domestic political plight of the people in the country you wish to travel to. Besides being aware of any oppression or aggression from the government or foreign forces on the civil population, you should be aware of any major movements, their goals, and activities. In yemen for instance, we have the houti *shi'a*s fighting the yemeni and saudi government in the north, and we have the *hirak* (communist sect) fighting the yemeni government in the south. You should also be aware of the mindset of the people in order to avoid suspicion. This all can be achieved if you follow the media reports from that country.

The importance of *Adhkar*

Before I came to jihad, I knew the importance of *adhkar* but not anything in relation to experience. On the first day I met with the mujahidin, before sunset arrived, a mujahid told me to make *adhkar*; he went on to explain that the Apostate Government of Saudi Arabia has individuals that work alongside evil jinns that spy on the mujahidin and give away their position. I was shocked and couldn't believe it. Later, other mujahidin confirmed the same thing to me, including some *shuyookh*, who would say that the same thing happens with the Apostates of Yemen. They will use *sihr* (magic) in order to fight the mujahidin. However, by Allah's grace, there are many good jinns that protect the mujahidin and defend us. This is the world of the unseen and Allah knows best. Therefore, it is imperative that you start memorizing the *adhkar* for the morning and evening and start practicing it on a daily bases, not giving yourself an excuse to miss a single day. You need to do this in order to protect yourself from *shaytan* and the evil jinns that work for the *shayatin* amongst men.



This finishes our briefing on expectations and everything you should expect when on jihad. There might be a few things left out both intentionally and unintentionally; for those things that are left out intentionally, it is because we don't want our enemy to know what we do. I didn't write any of this to scare my readers or to make them think twice; rather, I want to prepare them for the reality so that they don't commit the major sin of leaving jihad when Allah has blessed them with it. Also, now that you know what to expect, you can compare that with doing jihad in the west, weigh the pros and cons, and make your decision.

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